REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 14, 2004 has been reviewed. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese patent publication no. 10-197517 ("JP-'517"). The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 1-24, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a vapor fuel generation and management system for an evaporative fuel vapor engine, including a fuel tank, a carbon canister, a fuel vaporization unit, and a purge valve. The fuel vaporization unit generates vapor fuel and includes a vapor fuel outlet in communication with an engine intake manifold. The purge valve controls the flow of vapor fuel to the engine intake manifold. Thus the invention provides, for example, a fuel system for an engine that manages vapor emissions and generates and supplies sufficient vapor fuel to sustain operation of the engine without the need for a separate conventional liquid fuel supply to the engine cylinders, such as fuel injectors and a fuel rail. Support for these features is provided at, for example, paragraphs 0002-0004 and 0021 of Applicant's specification as originally filed.

In contrast, as described in the English language abstract and illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, JP-'517 merely discloses a device for generating fuel vapor to test a fuel vapor collection canister. Gasoline components are stored under pressure in cylinders 1a-1f. Flow rate adjusting part 20 adjusts the flow of the various gasoline components from cylinders 1a-1f to vapor generating part 30. Vapor generating part 30 mixes the various gasoline components and directs the mixture to vapor canister Ca for testing. Applicant submits that JP-'517 does not teach or suggest at least the features of a vapor fuel system for an evaporative fuel vapor engine, a fuel vaporization unit including a vapor fuel outlet in communication with an engine intake manifold, or a purge valve that controls the flow of vapor fuel to the engine intake manifold, as recited in claim 1. Nor does JP-'517 even recognize the problem that Applicant's invention solves. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 8 recites a fuel vaporization unit of a vapor fuel generation and management system for an evaporative fuel vapor engine. Claim 21 recites a method of generating vapor fuel in a fuel vaporization unit for an evaporative fuel vapor engine. Again, JP-'517 is directed to a system for testing vapor canisters, and not a fuel vaporization unit for an evaporative fuel vapor

engine, or method thereof. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 21 are patentable as well.

Claims 2-7 ultimately depend from claim 1, claims 9-20 ultimately depend from claim 8, and claims 22-24 depend from claim 21. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 1-24, be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 22, 2004 By: _____

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